



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### GASTROSCHISIS AWARENESS DAY

- WHEREAS: In the United States, approximately 1 in 2,229 individuals are born with gastroschisis, and roughly the same number ratio appears in Georgia annually; and
- WHEREAS: Gastroschisis is a birth defect that affects the abdominal wall, where a newborn's intestines are located outside of the body; and
- WHEREAS: Many Americans living with gastroschisis have serious and debilitating conditions, such as slow growth, short bowel syndrome, long-term feeding issues, and may need multiple organ transplants; and
- WHEREAS: Individuals and families affected by gastroschisis often encounter obstacles, such as a sense of isolation, difficulty in receiving an accurate and timely diagnosis, limited treatment options, and trouble accessing treatment or receiving treatment reimbursement; and
- WHEREAS: The cause of gastroschisis is relatively unknown, and patients and their families provide much of the funding for research on the disease; and
- WHEREAS: Many organizations, such as Avery's Angels Gastroschisis Foundation (AAGF), are dedicated to raising public awareness of gastroschisis by observing Gastroschisis Awareness Day on July 30, 2018. On this day, these organizations recognize those affected by gastroschisis, including Georgia resident Silas Blair Coleman; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim July 30, 2018, as GASTROSCHISIS AWARENESS DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF